

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS TAIPEI 003491

SIPDIS

DEPT PASS AIT/WASHINGTON AND AID

DEPT FOR EAP/RSP/TC AND OES/PCI

USDOC FOR 6200/ITA/TD/ENVIROTECH EXPORTS

FROM AIT KAOHSIUNG BRANCH OFFICE

EPA FOR OIA - DAN THOMPSON

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [SENV](#) [ECON](#) [TW](#) [ESTH](#)

SUBJECT: China Petrochemical Development Again Cited For Pollution

REF: Taipei 2997

¶1. Summary. China Petrochemical Development Corporation (CPDC), already facing soil and groundwater pollution problems in its plant in Anshun, Tainan City (see reftel), was cited after a recent survey conducted by Kaohsiung City's EPA (KEPA) that determined that total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) levels in the soil at the site of its plant in Kaohsiung City exceed KEPA's regulations by a factor of sixteen. CPDC's Kaohsiung plant is located within the area of the proposed Kaohsiung Multifunctional Commerce and Trade Park. KEPA has announced that the area is now a controlled site, which precludes construction of commercial buildings on the site. CPDC has acknowledged the research results and has promised that it will submit a proposal aimed at remedying the environmental violations by mid-October 2005. End Summary.

¶2. China Petrochemical Development Corporation (CPDC) began producing various chemicals in 1969. In the early 1970s, the company built a plant on Chung Shan Road, one of the major streets connecting Kaohsiung's train station and the Hsiao Kang International Airport in Kaohsiung City. The CPDC Kaohsiung plant, occupying 17.5 acres of land, used benzene, toluene, and xylene to produce caprolactam, a material used to produce nylon. The plant stopped operations in 2001.

¶3. Kaohsiung's EPA began monitoring the Kaohsiung CPDC plant in 2002. It conducted research, focusing on the levels of benzene and toluene present in the site's soil and groundwater. KEPA's report indicated that the volatile organic compound (VOC) level in the soil of the site was too high, as were levels of benzene and toluene. KEPA demanded that CPDC bring the pollutant levels within standards.

¶4. However, when KEPA conducted another round of tests in 2004, results showed that the situation had worsened. KEPA collected 35 samples of soil at the plant's 26 locations. The soil at four locations was found to have TPH levels that reached 16,580.4mg/kg, more than sixteen times TEPA's limit of 1,000mg/kg. In early August 2004, KEPA declared the plant a controlled site prohibited from conducting both industrial and commercial operations. KEPA also demanded that CPDC submit a proposal to the city's soil and groundwater pollution improvement panel by mid-October detailing plans to improve the situation. According to KEPA officials, a 15-member panel led by the Deputy Mayor of Kaohsiung, Cheng Wen-long, will review the proposal, and KEPA will monitor the process of removing the pollutants. Since the plant is located within the city's proposed Multifunctional Commerce and Trade Park area, the development of the park will be delayed.

Thiele
Paal